



Representative Bob Sump

7th District

**Pend Oreille, Stevens,
Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan
& Spokane counties**

Committees:

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Special Report to the 7th District



Dear Friends,

These past few months I have spent back in the 7th District only reinforces the honor and privilege it is to serve as your representative in Olympia. I meet people from all over the state due to my legislative duties, but my heart remains home. And, it's important to me that the state serves you in the best capacity – protecting your freedoms and providing a safe and secure economic future for all of us.

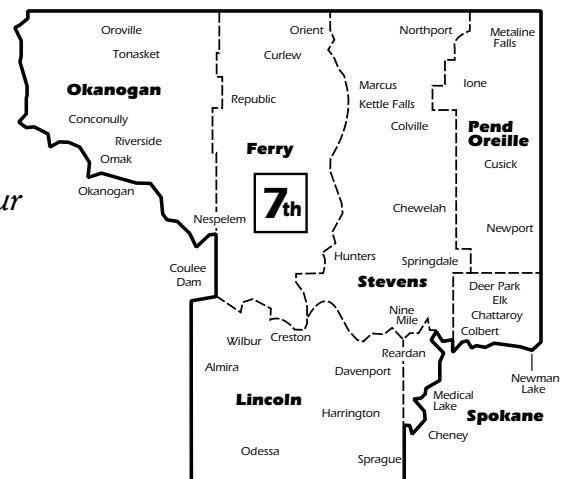
The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 made us all a bit uncertain about that future. But, our American spirit is strong and we will rebuild our buildings and maintain economic stability. This may require tough choices – choices more liberal legislators and the governor may be unprepared to make.

Republicans remember the struggles we faced because of not planning for the future. In the early '90s, the Legislature spent more than it could sustain, and wound up passing the largest tax increase in state history – \$900 million. This tax-and-spend approach does a disservice to the taxpayers, as well as those who truly need government assistance, because it puts important programs in jeopardy.

In June, I argued strongly for using greater spending discipline and leaving larger reserves in the general fund. Now, more than ever we need to focus our efforts on invigorating and protecting the economy. Budgeting for the future must be a priority.

My thanks to all of you who took the time to write, call and e-mail your requests throughout the year. I hope you continue as it helps me better represent your views in Olympia.

Bob Sump



State Agency Accountability

Over the past few months, many of you have written to me regarding the conduct of state agency employees. I can't say I am surprised that some agencies are crossing the boundary of private property. Over the years, state agencies have simply grown out of control. The new shorelines regulations by the Department of Ecology and the new ergonomics standards from the Department of Labor and Industries are just the latest example.

As co-chair of the Natural Resources Committee, I examined the budgets of many state agencies and balked at the dollars they were requesting that would further impinge upon your rights. Unfortunately, the Democrat-controlled Senate and their House counterparts wouldn't listen.

One example was House Bill 2148, a measure that died this year. It would have required a review of the outcome and performance measures of specified state programs and agencies. The purpose of the reviews would have been to provide greater accountability to the public and ensure that the state had effective systems to access performance.

We have some tough budgetary decisions to make in the upcoming months and I hope Democrats will open their ears to Republicans' common-sense ideas of how to make the government work FOR the people, not against them.

For those of you who have concerns about the actions of state employees in the 7th District, here is a list of phone numbers:

Department of Agriculture: (360) 902-1800

Department of Ecology (water testing):
..... 1-800-633-6193

Natural Resources (wildlife) Incident Hotline:
..... 1-800-477-6224

Commissioner of Public Lands: (360) 902-1004



Trapping Initiative Update

A group of hunters, fishermen and ranchers sued the state arguing the two initiatives limiting hunting and trapping in Washington violates state law. Citizens for Responsible Wildlife Management and other groups seek to invalidate Initiative 713 (the trapping ban) and Initiative 655 (bear-baiting and cougar hound hunting). The group claims the state, under the Public Trust Doctrine, must manage wildlife for the benefit of all Washington's citizens.

I proposed legislation last year that would require all future initiatives dealing with fish and wildlife issues to achieve a 60 percent supermajority. Republicans also sponsored a bill that

would require all statewide initiatives to receive a percentage of votes from different regions of the state.

We face different challenges in various areas of the state. The population base in Seattle that overwhelmingly approved the trapping ban doesn't realize the struggles we face in protecting our crops and livestock. It's important

we all have an equal voice in the process of democracy.

On the Net:

Citizens for Responsible Wildlife Management:
<http://www.responsiblewildlifemanagement.org>



Dam-building beavers flood timber land. Coyotes snatch more lambs. River otters treat salmon hatcheries as all-you-can-eat buffets. Nearly a year after Washington voters banned most forms of trapping, trappers, landowners and wildlife officials say they're dealing with the consequences.

(Seattle Post-Intelligencer Oct. 6, 2001)

Special Report to the 7th District

Operating Budget Poses Challenge for Lawmakers

The budget we most commonly refer to is the state operating budget, which includes appropriations from the general fund and other dedicated accounts for general government operations. This includes funding for schools, colleges and universities, human services, natural resource management and other general needs.

The current 2001-03 general fund budget, crafted by Democrat lawmakers, totals \$22.8 billion. However, with the level of spending in the budget combined with declining revenues, some analysts anticipate that we will be facing a deficit in the general fund of close to \$1 billion.

More difficult decisions are in store for lawmakers this year, as our state's economy continues to slow and lawmakers work to protect important services. Just five months into our two-year budget cycle, it looks as though lawmakers will be forced to cut services in order keep the Democrats' budget in balance.



The collection of tax revenues has been steadily slowing over the past several months due to our cooling economy. Meanwhile, health care costs are rising substantially, we've incurred \$10 million in emergency expenses fighting wildfires this summer, and security issues at schools and other public facilities has become a paramount concern.

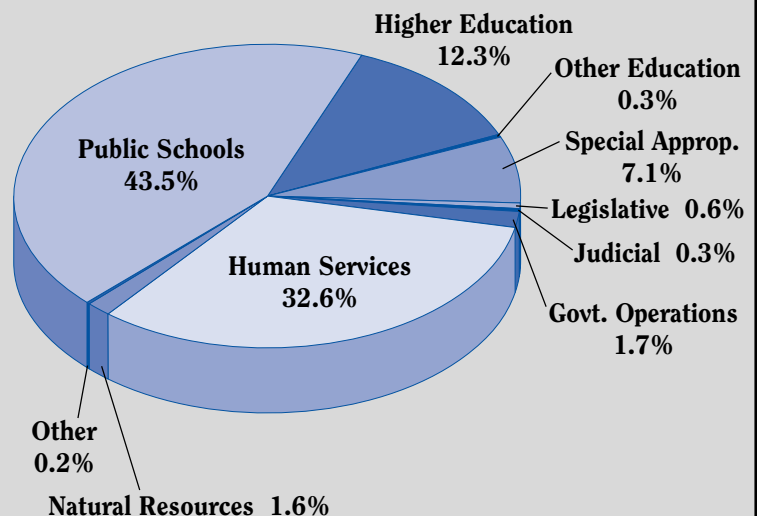
It will require a genuine bipartisan effort in the coming months to bring this budget back into balance and make it sustainable over the long term without the need for new taxes.

Bringing a budget into balance

2001-03 Budget Picture

The latest economic forecast released in September showed a drop in tax revenue of more than \$100 million in the current biennium, and that was before economists had a chance to factor in the effects of the Sept. 11 attack on our state and national economy. Some economists warn that we eventually could have a budget shortfall of close to \$1 billion.

2001-03 Projected Tax Revenues	\$22,021,800
2001-03 Budget Expenditures	<u>\$22,786,783</u>
Difference	-\$765 million
Unrestricted General Fund Reserve	\$66 million
Emergency Reserve	\$390 million



Approximately 43.5 percent of the \$22.8 billion general fund budget goes toward K-12 education – a budget area lawmakers would rather not cut. The governor has asked seven of the largest state agencies to prepare contingency cuts of 15 percent from their budgets. The agencies he's targeted for cuts include the departments of Social and Health Services, Corrections, Community Development, Health, Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife, as well as the Office of Trade and Economic Development.

Special Report to Seniors

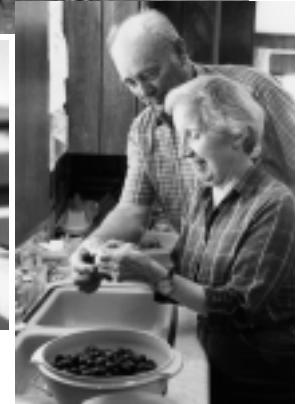
Progress for seniors in the state budget

As a legislator, I am considered a “fiscal conservative”. In other words, I believe government should wisely spend the hard-earned money of taxpayers. I also believe government must make tough choices and set priorities. One of state government’s top priorities must be helping senior citizens.

Meeting the long-term care needs of seniors was an important part of the state operating budget the Legislature passed this year. There are many victories for seniors in the budget.

I am also deeply concerned about the number of seniors in our community who are not receiving the long-term care they so desperately need. I know the importance of long-term care and will continue to fight for seniors in Olympia.

The Legislature did make significant progress this session to strengthen Washington’s long-term care program.



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to the 7th District

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